

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 131400Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4866

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 1800

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST AFFAIRS IN MILAN

1. EXECUTIVE OFFICER LUNCHEd AUGUST 12 WITH PSI PROVINCIAL ASSESSORE WHO IS AMONG THOSE IN RUNNING FOR MILAN PROVINCIAL SECRETARYSHIP NOW HELD BY DE MARTINIANO LUIGI VERTAMATI.

2. SUBJECT SAID MILAN SOCIALISTS ARE IN SAME STATE OF CONFUSION WHICH ABTAINS AT NATIONAL LEVEL. SOCIALISTS ON ONE HAND ARE POPULAR PARTY AND MUST STAY THAT WAY, POSITION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY PUTS THEM CHEEK TO JOWL WITH COMMUNISTS, WITH WHOM THEY MUST COOPERATE. ON OTHER HAND, THERE IS MOVEMENT-- IN MILAN AS WELL AS OVERALL-- TO ASSERT SOCIALIST AUTONOMY FROM PCI, MOVEMENT GIVEN STRONG BOOST BY ELECTION OF BETTINO CRAXI TO PARTY SECRETARYSHIP. THIS WILL BE MAIN POINT AT ISSUE WHEN MILAN PARTY HOLDS CONGRESS IN FALL. SOURCE SAID PRESENT PROVINCIAL SECRETARY VERTAMATI WILL CERTAINLY BE REPLACED AND HE IMPLIED THAT VERTAMATI WOULD BE MOVING NOT UP BUT OUT. ALTHOUGH VERTAMTI, HE EXPLAINED, IS BY NO MEANS FILOCOMMUNIST, CHOICES HE HAS MADE AND POSITIONS HE HAS TAKEN HAVE NOT ADVANCED SOCIALIST AUTONOMY FROM PCI EITHER. SOURCE SAID THERE ARE PRESENTLY HANDFULL OF CANDIDATES FOR VERTAMATI'S POSITION, INCLUDING CRAXI'S SECRETARY (NOW IN ROME) AS WELL AS HIMSELF. CHOICE SHOULD NOT BE MADE, HOWEVER, UNTIL AFTER MILAN PARTY HAS MET AND ELABORATED CLEAR POSITION,
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AT WHICH TIME MANTLE SHOUL SIT MORE APPROPRIATELY

ON SOME SHOULDERS THAN ON OTHERS.

3. COMMENT. VERTAMATI VISITED U.S. AND DEPARTMENT
PAST SPRING ON IVP PROGRAM. HE IS VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD U.S.
ANOTHER SOURCE FAMILIAR WITH SOCIALISTS IN MILAN HAS TOLD US
VERTEMATI IS CONVINCED PSI MUST BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT OF
COMMUNISTS AND THAT IT IS ALMOST BY ACCIDENT THAT HE LANDED IN
DE MARTINO CAMP. UNTIL NOW WE HAVE HEARD
THAT VERTEMATI WOULD LEAVE PROVINCIAL SECRETARYSHIP SOON
BUT MOVE UP TO SAME POST AT REGIONAL LEVEL. END COMMENT
WRIGHT

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